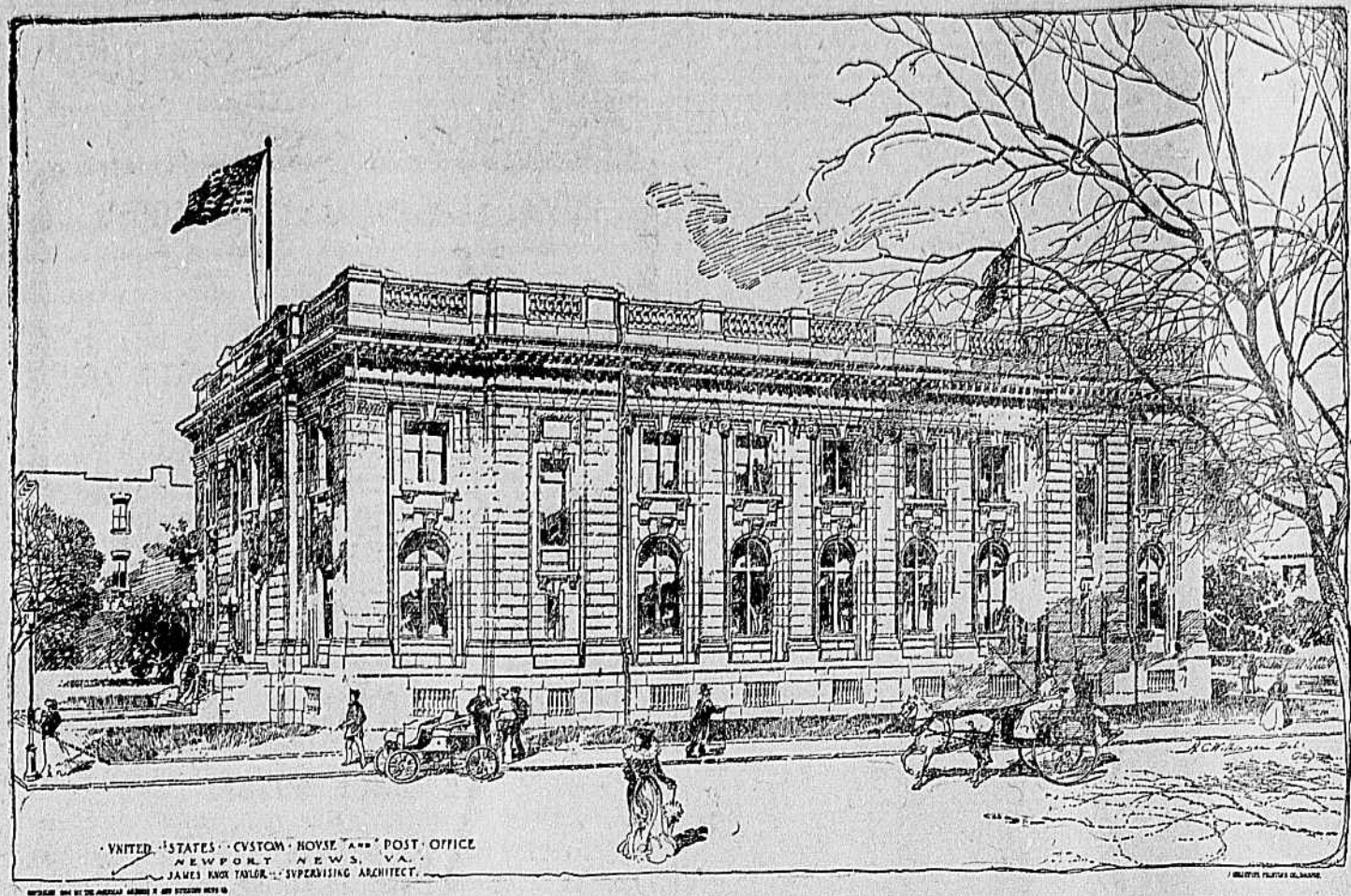


HANDSOME CUSTOM HOUSE BEING ERECTED IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS



(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
NEWPORT NEWS, VA., May 14.—Newport News will soon have a custom house and postoffice suitable to the dignity and amount of business done by this port. The picture gives a part view of the building, which is somewhat larger than is shown in this view, there being a one story wing in the rear.

The building is 131 feet long by 61 feet wide, and a basement and two stories in height. The exterior walls are faced with granite to the height of the first story, and above that point with white marble. The building is of fire-proof construction throughout, and is supplied with modern types of heating apparatus, toilet fixtures, etc. The interior finish is of marble and oak.

The building fronts on three streets, the long front being on West Avenue, with entrances on Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Streets. The customs department occupies the second floor and a portion of the first floor and basement; in the latter being the appraiser's store rooms, supplied with a lift to the street level. The post-office and internal revenue occupy the remainder of the first floor.

A large public lobby, in the first story, separates the customs department from the postoffice, and two marble staircases give access to the customs rooms above, and to the general toilets on the second floor.

NORFOLK SOCIETY.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
NORFOLK, VA., May 14.—A most enjoyable dance was given on board the Texas Thursday afternoon by Ensign Manly. The party left Norfolk on a launch at 1:30 P. M. for the ship which is at Newport News, and on arriving greatly enjoyed the dance on deck. Those present were Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs. John G. Quimby, Misses Belle and Cornelia Truxton, Miss Margaret Old, Miss Sue Parsons, Miss Ruth Gibson, of New York; Miss Virginia Downer, Miss Brundage, of Oil City, Pa.; Miss Gertrude Walke, Miss Ruth Wilson, Lieut. Sibley, of S. M. C. Ensign Taussig, Ensign Green, Slade, Midshipman Tupper, Lieut. Oliver, Lieut. Smith and Dr. Hoyt and Ensign Manly. Miss Esther Byrnes entertained several of her friends this week in a most charming manner. The occasion was a dance given on board the Texas, which is in Hampton Roads, from 3 to 5. Her guests were Mrs. Bate, Misses Belle and Cornelia Truxton, Miss Lucy Bayler, Miss Helen Taylor, Miss Miss Lou Cook, Miss Jessie Graham, Miss Gertrude McCormick, of Berryville; Miss Lucy Hardy, Miss Julia Smith, of Baltimore; Miss Gibson, of New York; Miss Sue Parsons, Mr. George Bate, Mr. Everman and Mr. Charles Tunstall. Mrs. C. Brooks Johnson entertained the members of the Bridge Whist Club Tuesday morning at her home, in Glen. Miss Floyd Hughes was awarded one of the prizes, a cut glass marmalade jar, and the other a plate, was won by Mrs. Howard Shield. Mrs. Johnston's guests were Mrs. J. Leighton Hubbard, Mrs. Allan R. Hancock, Mrs. Forney Reese, Mrs. James J. Leigh, Mrs. Howard Shield, Mrs. Percy Stephenson and Mrs. Floyd Hughes. A very delightful supper was given at the Virginia Club Tuesday evening. Those present were Mrs. A. P. Warrington, Miss Elizabeth Hureamp, of Fredericksburg; Miss Ruth Forester, of Washington; Miss Emily Allen, Mr. Richard Wright, Mr. Wayne Childrey and Judge Allan R. Hancock. Captain and Mrs. George T. Parker

announce the engagement of their daughter, Harriett Katherine, to Mr. A. Lyn-ton Jones, of Norfolk. The wedding will occur on June 14th at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Parker, in Suffolk. The Afternoon Card Club, was entertained Wednesday by Miss Bonnie Bille-ly, at her home in Middle Street. A most delightful afternoon was spent by all present. The first prize, a most dainty hand-painted gauze fan, was cut for, and won by Miss Amy Watts. Miss Rebecca Nash was successful in drawing the highest card for consolation prize, and was given a lace handkerchief. Miss Billely's guests were Messrs. Grif Edwards, Clayton Thredercraft, James Maupin, Sydney Harris, Frank Thredercraft, Warner Pugh, Sully Griffin and Misses Betty Ashton, Augusta Maupin, Florence Bacet, Clara Ashton, Sarah Wilson, Nancy Butt, Rebecca Nash, Georgie Watts, Jane Neely, Amy Watts, Fanny Langhorn, Kate Billely, Lois Wendle, and Annie Gordon, of Richmond. The score was kept by Misses Elizabeth Allen and Marie Niemeyer. The home of Mrs. Warner Pugh, in Crawford Street, was a bower of flowers and palms, with dainty white shades and dozens of candles, on Tuesday afternoon, when she was "at home" to her friends from five to seven. Mrs. Pugh was assisted in receiving by her sister, Miss Nancy Butt. Mrs. J. W. Summer Butt presided over the punch bowl most gracefully, while the daintiest refreshments were served by Mesdames William Essie, Harry Lee Watts, Frank Thredercraft and Misses Nona Dewey, Ed-bell Maupin, Elizabeth Allen, Jessica Smith, of Henderson, N. C.; Elizabeth Neely, Essie Plummer, Georgie Murdaugh and Marion Murdaugh.

CREWE SOCIAL.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
CREWE, VA., May 14.—Captain and Mrs. E. P. Lockett left Monday night for an extended trip South. They will attend the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, after which they will visit

CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
FREDERICKSBURG, VA., May 14.—Prof. Edward Ray, of North Carolina, delivered a humorous lecture at Fredericksburg College last night before a large audience. His subject was "Why

If you want to hear a competitor squeal, knock him down with prices.

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CONSUMED BY A FIRE THAT WATER WILL NOT QUENCH

Only those who have experienced the awful itching and burning of Eczema can know how it feels to be consumed by the blistering, fiery acids oozing out through the pores of the skin. There is no other skin disease that compares in severity with Eczema. It begins as a mere redness of the skin, or comes in little watery blisters and pimples, discharging a thin sticky fluid which hardens into scabs and scales, leaving a raw and inflamed surface as they peel off, while the itching is almost intolerable. Eczema is the most vicious and violent of all skin diseases, appearing in many different forms; the dry and scaly kind with brownish white crusts, which gives the skin a rough, leathery appearance, and producing sometimes painful fissures and sores. In other cases the skin has a swollen, moist appearance, with occasional profuse discharges of watery matter. But all the varieties and types of this aggravating disease are akin and are caused by impure blood and an over-acid condition of this vital fluid that seems to set the skin on fire, kindling a flame that water will not quench, and an itching, stinging eruption that lotions, soaps, salves and powders cannot suppress. As the poisonous acids in the blood increase the eruption spreads and becomes more angry looking, and the itching and burning more unbearable. Eczema is the commonest of all skin diseases, and the most aggravating and treacherous, disappearing at times, then returning suddenly and in a severer form than ever. It is particularly bad in warm weather, because at this season the skin is reacting and the blood is making extra effort to throw off the morbid secretions and acid impurities that have been accumulating during the long winter months, and there is an overflow of the acid matter and acid poison through the pores, producing irritation and redness of the skin and all the terrors of Eczema. Soothing applications are beneficial and advisable, but not curative, because the seat of the disease is in the blood, and external or surface treatment cannot change bad blood into good blood or purge the system of impurities. Only a blood purifier can do this, and while treating the skin the blood must be looked after or the disease is sure to return when the blood is again overcharged with acids.

S. S. S. to purify and cleanse the blood, and some non-irritating, soothing salve or lotion, is the proper treatment for all forms of Eczema. S. S. S. has made some remarkable cures of this stubborn skin disease—cases that had become chronic from long neglect or wrong treatment. S. S. S. is the only guaranteed strictly vegetable blood remedy. It is without a single mineral ingredient, but of medicinal roots that come from the fields and forests or Nature's store-houses. S. S. S. combines both purifying and tonic properties that enter into the circulation and destroy the impurities, and at the same time tone up the general system. Skin diseases are, after all, only symptoms of impure and vitiated blood and external signs of disordered systems, and when you cure the blood the eruptions disappear.

If you have Eczema or any blood disease, sore or eruption, write us and our physician will gladly advise you and furnish any information desired without cost to you. Book on the Skin and its diseases free.

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, ATLANTA, GA.

A SUCCESSFUL PEANUT-PICKER

A Wonderful Machine Invented
by an Isle of Wight
Farmer.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
FERGUSON'S WHARF, May 14.—Mr. W. J. Jones, a farmer, living upon the farm of Hon. Thomas N. Jones, near this place, has manufactured and has patented a machine which will be of inestimable value to the peanut planters. Ever since the farms of Eastern Virginia have engaged largely in peanut culture, the great difficulty with which they have had to contend has been to get the nuts picked from the vines. They have had to depend entirely upon colored women and children to pick them by hand, which, in this day of large crops, is a slow and tedious process, as a good hand could only pick about five bushels per day, and that only when the weather was favorable, at a cost of ten cents per bushel.

When the peanut crop was cultivated on a small scale, it was not much trouble to get them picked, but as the demand for the nuts has increased to such an extent, and the price has been so high, it has become a most profitable crop for this section, it is no uncommon thing to plant from fifty to one hundred and fifty acres in peanuts, and some large farmers even pick them consequently. Now to get the nuts picked in time for the market was a serious consideration. The planters in some instances were forced to build large store houses in order to

protect them from the weather, or stack them in large stacks, sometimes to remain for six months before they could get them ready for shipment. And as almost everything eats peanuts, that meant a continual loss every day. To overcome this trouble and loss several attempts have been made to get up a picker which would do the work, but up to this time all have proved a failure, as the machines heretofore made, either cracked the hulls, and thereby damaged the nuts, or a great expense of left them full of string and trash, so it was impossible to get full value for the crop. But this machine invented by Mr. Jones has entirely eliminated those defects, and the nuts are picked off clean, free from string, and perfectly whole. In fact, the nuts are put in better condition by the average hand picking process.

The machine looks something like an old style wheat thrasher and fan mill combined, and so far as your correspondent can judge, after a thorough inspection of the machine in operation, it does all claimed for it by the inventor, both speedily and thoroughly. With the motive power furnished by a gasoline engine of four and one-half horse power, it easily picked a bushel of peanuts in from three to four minutes, and when the machine is manufactured by a practical machinist, will probably, with a little more power, pick a bushel in two minutes.

A large crowd of farmers, among them some of the largest peanut planters of Surry and Isle of Wight, were present Thursday afternoon to see the machine in practical operation. Among those present from Surry county were Col. George W. Savage, Mr. Charles W. Warren, of Bacon's Castle; Mr. Gwaltney, Mr. James R. Rowles, Pitman, Barlow and others. Among the gentlemen from Isle of Wight were Messrs. John H. Ramsey, Augustus White, James J. Zerkow, W. E. Wilson, W. D. Turner, Hon. Thomas N. Jones, W. E. Howie, Joseph A. Turner and others, all practical level headed farmers, and the universal verdict was that the machine was a perfect success.

Mr. Jones, being interviewed, says he has been experimenting on and on for the last twenty years. He felt sure that a machine could be made to do the work required, but from lack of means he could not carry his ideas into effect. He said he made a small one when he was but fifteen years of age, and has since made two more, but while they did the work in some sort of fashion, they were not satisfactory. But now he feels sure he has made just what the people require in the way of a peanut picker.

Mr. Jones, the inventor of this wonderful labor saving contrivance, is in many respects a remarkable man. Although he never learned any trade, he is a first class practical carpenter, blacksmith and machinist. He made every part of this machine, with the exception of some cast iron fly wheels, etc., with no other assistance than his boys, and it is a beautiful piece of workmanship.

Mr. Thomas N. Jones is associated with the inventor, and they expect to have a number of machines manufactured this summer in some large machine manufacturing company, so as to supply the demand for the machines by the time the next peanut crop has been harvested. In using this machine, the farmers can in a few days or weeks pick off their entire crop, and one of the greatest inconveniences and worries of peanut raising, to say nothing of the great loss incurred by storing or stacking the shocks, will be avoided.

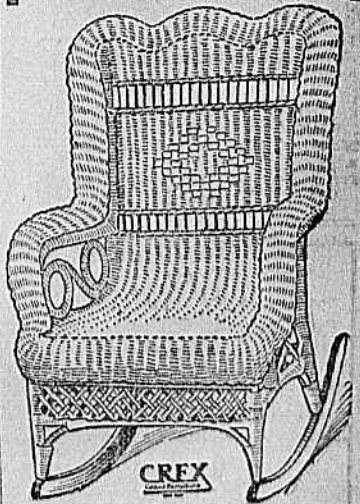
Another very great advantage is the fire condition it puts the vines in for feed. The peanut vine has long been recognized by the farmers as a most valuable and nutritious forage plant, being considered by many to be superior to corn fodder or common hay. This machine cuts it up fine and blows out all the dust and dirt, and puts the vines

and leaves in the best possible condition for horse or cattle feed. It was the opinion of many who were present, that this item alone would pay all the expenses of picking the crop.

A Cooing Paragraph.

A correspondent in yesterday's paper intercalated it as to his opinion of the matter of killing doves, and whether he believed that a man with whom the correspondent had an argument on the subject was correct in saying that warrant for it can be found in Genesis. To kill a dove, whether for "sport" or the pot, is a sin; no warrant for it can be found in the Bible or anywhere else. The dove, while not the most beautiful of birds, nor yet the most useful, is the gentlest, most appealing of them all, and the man who would shoot one is in the same class with the man who dynamites fish.—Charlotte Observer.

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